

WASHINGTON (September 20) – The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act in a bipartisan voice vote.

Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) cosponsored the bill and requested that the House leadership schedule floor consideration. The legislation now goes to the Senate.

Congressman Bachus' prepared statement follows. An excerpt from his floor remarks can be viewed [here](#). □

**We know that there is an increasing prevalence of autism, and it is something that children and families deal with their entire lives. It is a challenge for these families but for our society as well, because of the long-term costs involved in providing care for individuals with developmental disorders.**

**However, the blessing of recent years is that new research and early intervention programs are making an enormous difference in bettering the lives of young boys and girls with autism spectrum disorders.**

**As a member of the Congressional Autism Caucus, I have personally seen the exciting innovations at facilities using a comprehensive approach to care. Mitchell's Place in Birmingham is helping young children and adolescents improve both their academic performance and social behavior by combining the latest in research and services with a structured and caring environment. The loving staff performs small miracles every day.□□ You only need to see the beautiful children and the new hope held by their proud parents and grandchildren to realize it is quite literally a Godsend.**

**A coordinated and comprehensive approach to the treatment of autism spectrum disorders has been a key to this encouraging progress. My home state of Alabama recognized the importance of close cooperation when it formed the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council in 2008. Children and parents across my state are being helped by the council's planning and awareness efforts.**

**The Combating Autism Act has been crucial to promoting this kind of coordinated approach on a national level. The renewal of this legislation will build on the successes that have already been achieved in a responsible and effective way.**

**It is my hope that this legislation will receive wide bipartisan support because it is doing good works while making a life-changing investment in the health and well-being of very precious children.**

□

□